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| Date Mailed December 11, 2001 |
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BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Notification by Belmont Telephone Company that It Intends
to Increase Rates

450-TR-102

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING AND
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING opened in response to the notification received on November 8, 2001, from Belmont Telephone Company (Belmont, or applicant), that it intends to increase rates for local exchange telephone service at its Belmont exchange in Lafayette County.

Rate increases are proposed for nonrecurring service charges, directory listings, and directory assistance to bring them to levels common in the industry. In some cases the proposed percentage increases are large because current rates are relatively low. The proposed rates are within the limits for the respective services previously approved by the Commission.

Belmont mailed notice of this proposal to its customers on December 1, 2001. Under Wis. Stat. § 196.215(3)(a), the proposed rates will become effective February 1, 2002, as specified in the notice. Customers have the opportunity to petition the Commission for an investigation of the utility's rate increase.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission will investigate this matter under Wis. Stat. § 196.215(3)(a). If, within 60 days of the mailing of the utility's notice to customers, the Commission receives a petition from at least 85 customers requesting that the Commission determine rates, further investigation will be necessary. The utility's proposed increases may still go into effect; however, the rates will then be subject to refund.

The Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to

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participate in this proceeding or who needs to get this document in a different format should contact the docket coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to docket coordinator Tom Gross at (608) 267-2337 or (800) 225-7729.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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